

12 Riverside Court  
Berlin, MD 21811  
May 7, 2003

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Please Do Not Relax Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

We are writing to ask that you not relax broadcast ownership rules.

The proposed new rules would permit a few large corporations to exert much greater control on the media, and thus would reduce airing of divergent political views. Allowing a few corporations to control the media would abridge political speech in America, and therefore would not be in America's best interest.

Sincerely,

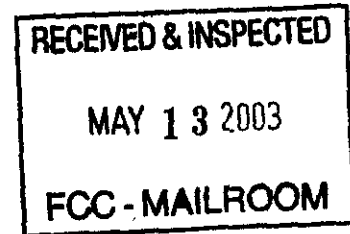
*Carl Johnson*

*Barbara Johnson*

Carl and Barbara Johnson

Confirmed  
MAY 15 2003  
Distribution Center

Abram Mark Ratner, PhD, PE  
5 Strawberry Bank Road, Unit 12  
Nashua, NH 03062-2743  
(603) 888-6153



May 7, 2003

The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner, FCC  
445 - 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Adelstein:

This letter is to urge you not to relax the FCC rules on media ownership. Their purpose is to prevent media monopolies, which are very bad for the nation. Democracy requires exposure to many points of view, which would be seriously hindered by allowing a few corporations to control the bulk of the airwaves.

Please continue the broadcast ownership protections we have now.

Thank you.

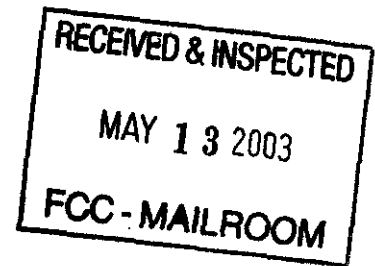
Sincerely,

*Abram Mark Ratner*

Confirmed

MAY 15 2003

Distribution Center



The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect us American citizens  
I believe it would be bad for our Democracy to allow large corporations to become  
media monopolies.

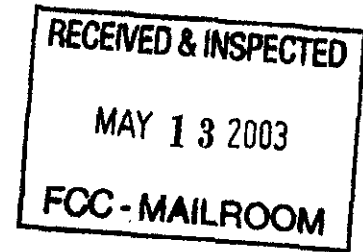
Sincerely,

Roy R. Jensen

Roy R. Jensen  
1617 - A South Cleveland Avenue  
Sioux Falls SD 57103-8505

Confirmed  
MAY 15 2003  
Distribution Center

Abram Mark Ratner, PhD, PE  
5 Strawberry Bank Road, Unit 12  
Nashua, NH 03062-2743  
(603) 888-6153



May 7, 2003

The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner, FCC  
445 - 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Copps:

This letter is to urge you not to relax the FCC rules on media ownership. Their purpose is to prevent media monopolies, which are very bad for the nation. Democracy requires exposure to many points of view, which would be seriously hindered by allowing a few corporations to control the bulk of the airwaves.

Please continue the broadcast ownership protections we have now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Abram Mark Ratner*

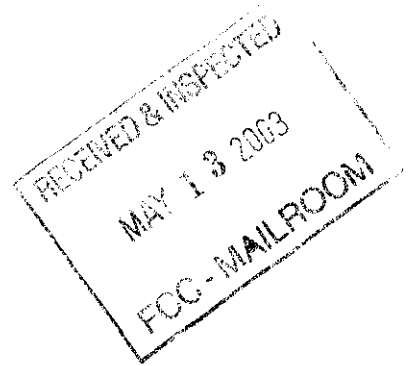
Confirmed  
MAY 15 2003  
Distribution Center

Confirmed

MAY 7 6 2003

Distribution Center

May 6, 2003  
Holland, MN



Dear Mr. Abernathy:

We urge you **not** to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and freedom, we urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

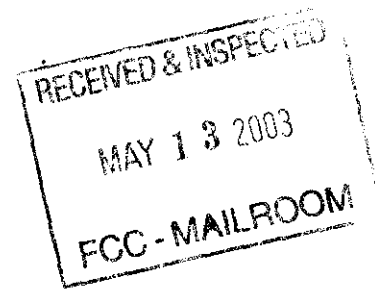
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold &amp; Jennie Westra".

Harold and Jennie Westra  
450 Sioux ST  
Holland, MN 56139

May 4, 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



Dear Mr. Martin,

Subject: BROADCAST OWNERSHIP

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership regulations. These rules do protect public access to information from falling into the hands of only a few media monopolies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane".

Diane O'Neil  
PO Box 664  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

May 6, 2003

Dear Mr. O'Rourke

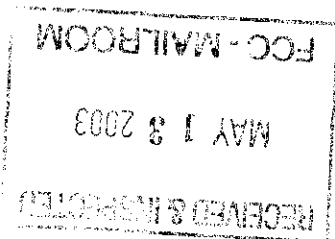
I urge you to not change the ownership  
rules concerning media companies.

Franklin,  
John W. O'Rourke

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Distribution Center



May 6, 2003

Dear Sir,

I urge you to not charge the ownership  
with concerning media companies.

Thanks,

John Whitcomb



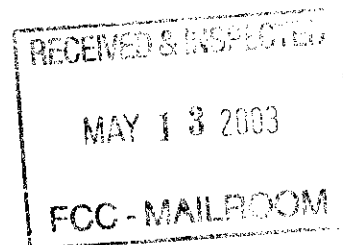
Distribution Center

MAY 16 2003

Confirmed



May 6, 2003



Dear Sir -

I urge you to not change the ownership rules concerning media companies.

Thanks,

John Starks

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

May 6, 2003

Dear Sir,

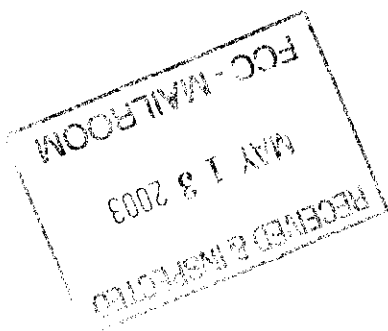
I urge you not to change the ownership  
of the company.

Charles,  
President

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Distribution Center



*Edward Handman*

---

3365 Punta Alta (1G)  
Laguna Woods, California 92653  
949.859.6168

05/04/03

Dear Chairman Powell,

Certainly no one could have predicted that the US would reach the stage of dissemination of information that it is at today.

We have a system where a few people control what the general public will see and hear. In California, they have decided that the next car chase is more interesting than the two bills for universal health care coverage that are up in the State Legislature. Most listeners and viewers will hear no intelligent discussion of cost, who would be covered, etc.

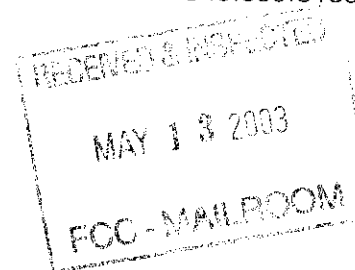
The country has created a situation where public interest is a far second to the needs and profits of the big money institutions that control most of what America will see and hear. Independent, local voices are easily out-bought, to the point where they hardly exist.

Unfortunately, you seem to head a Commission that will make the government more of an ally of the businesspeople who use the information channels for personal profit, rather than act for the good of the American people. Instead of a knowledgeable, intelligent population we will have a nation fed only the information it is deemed can turn a profit.

I urge you to consider the reality of our information system and what it is further becoming. The reality of a system gone wrong is far greater than any philosophy of survival of the fittest.

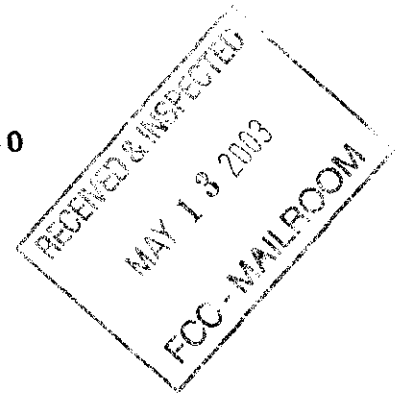
Sincerely,

*Ed Handman*



Confirmed  
MAY 16 2003  
Distribution Center

**Donald J. Gray**  
11 Longbow Road  
Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940  
May 5, 2003



The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Abernathy:

It is sad but true that many organizations that form the news media in this country color their selection of the news to report, their reporting of that news, and their acceptance of advertising, by their editorial opinions. This media bias is countered when there is a diversity of media outlets in each market area. That diversity is maintained in part by the present broadcast ownership rules. I urge you not to relax those rules.

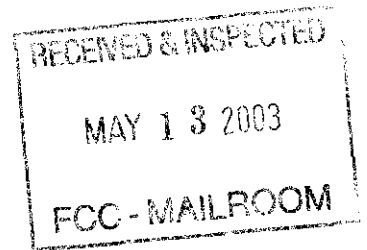
Changes in ownership rules that are currently proposed would make it possible for large media organizations to gain major control over broadcasting in many market areas in this country, depriving the American public of the diversity of views on important issues from which they now benefit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. J. Gray".

Confirmed  
MAY 16 2003  
Distribution Center

**Donald J. Gray**  
11 Longbow Road  
Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940  
May 5, 2003



The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Copps:

It is sad but true that many organizations that form the news media in this country color their selection of the news to report, their reporting of that news, and their acceptance of advertising, by their editorial opinions. This media bias is countered when there is a diversity of media outlets in each market area. That diversity is maintained in part by the present broadcast ownership rules. I urge you not to relax those rules.

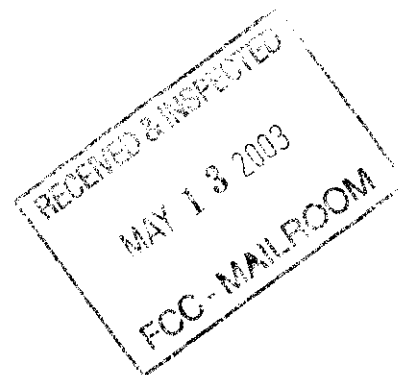
Changes in ownership rules that are currently proposed would make it possible for large media organizations to gain major control over broadcasting in many market areas in this country, depriving the American public of the diversity of views on important issues from which they now benefit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Gray", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Confirmed  
MAY 15 2003  
Distribution Center

**CHARLES MING**  
1716 THUNDERBIRD BOULEVARD  
EDMOND, OK 73013  
405 348 9022  
405 826 9486 CELL  
[cming@cox.net](mailto:cming@cox.net)



May 5, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

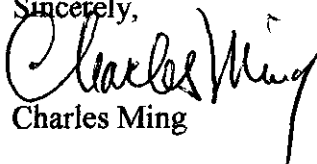
Dear Mr. Powell:

I urge you to not relax ownership rules that protect American Citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across the nation. Many of these corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Please do not relax the broadcast ownership that has helped insure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,

  
Charles Ming

Confirmed  
MAY 16 2003  
Distribution Center

**CHARLES MING**  
1716 THUNDERBIRD BOULEVARD  
EDMOND, OK 73013  
405 348 9022  
405 826 9486 CELL  
[cming@cox.net](mailto:cming@cox.net)



May 5, 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Martin:

I urge you to not relax ownership rules that protect American Citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across the nation. Many of these corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

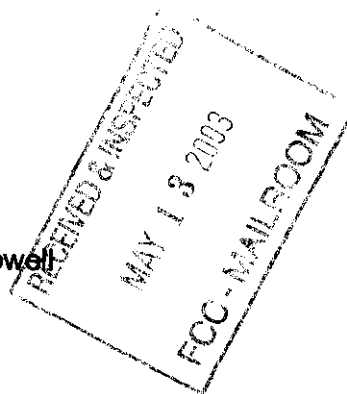
The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Please do not relax the broadcast ownership that has helped insure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,

Charles Ming

5 May 2003

The Honorable Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



Virginia Myhaver  
412 Circle Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Chairman Powell:

Distribution Center

I urge you most vehemently not to weaken the media-ownership rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers. This will assure that media ownership will become even more concentrated among fewer companies than it already is, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. Plus, it would likely result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs would likely be passed on to consumers.

I am aware of your stance in favor of deregulation and the opinion that consolidation is simply a healthy trend in business, dictated by market forces. However, the relationship citizens in a democracy have with media does not compare to that which we have with other "products." The mass media shape our thoughts, decisions, and values and indeed, *should* provide the information and news we need to fully participate in our democratic society. An understanding of the profound impact the media have upon our lives and our democracy led to the establishment of the Federal Communications Commission and to its primary mission: to ensure that our airwaves are used by broadcasters in the "public interest." The emergence of cable and satellite conglomerates has proven that more channels do not translate into the diverse voices, enhanced localism, or even variety in programming which are essential to a pluralist culture and the democratic process.

Reports and transcripts of public hearings indicate that the relatively few members of the public who are aware of the proposed changes are overwhelmingly opposed to media consolidation. They are joined by leading religious and civil rights groups, the Consumer's Federation of America, and numerous small, independent media outlets. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition.

Members of Congress and the Senate have expressed concern regarding the lack of opportunity for review of proposed changes. I am aware that you have cited governmental pressure (which I suspect initially emanates from the powerful communications lobby) as a cause for the acceleration of the decision-making process. Clearly, a directive to slow the process down is now being put forth; your doing so could thus be enacted without reproach. While it is within your legal domain to make changes without consulting others further, I urge you to heed this request and the public's comments. Certainly, the "public interest" is best served by informing the citizenry of the intended changes and by allowing for further public and governmental response to decisions which will likely reconfigure American media, journalism, and democracy dramatically.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Virginia Myhaver".

Virginia Myhaver



*Edward Handman*

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

3365 Punta Alta (1G)

Laguna Woods, California 92653

949.859.6168

05/04/03

Dear Chairman Powell,

Certainly no one could have predicted that the US would reach the stage of dissemination of information that it is at today.

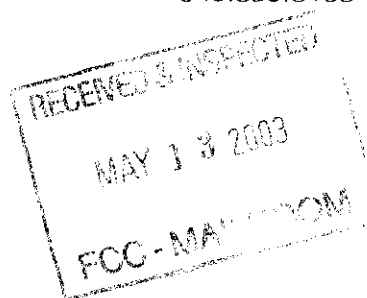
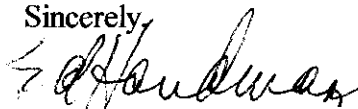
We have a system where a few people control what the general public will see and hear. In California, they have decided that the next car chase is more interesting than the two bills for universal health care coverage that are up in the State Legislature. Most listeners and viewers will hear no intelligent discussion of cost, who would be covered, etc.

The country has created a situation where public interest is a far second to the needs and profits of the big money institutions that control most of what America will see and hear. Independent, local voices are easily out-bought, to the point where they hardly exist.

Unfortunately, you seem to head a Commission that will make the government more of an ally of the businesspeople who use the information channels for personal profit, rather than act for the good of the American people. Instead of a knowledgeable, intelligent population we will have a nation fed only the information it is deemed can turn a profit.

I urge you to consider the reality of our information system and what it is further becoming. The reality of a system gone wrong is far greater than any philosophy of survival of the fittest.

Sincerely,



Copy  
original sent to:

May 4, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Powell,

Subject: BROADCAST OWNERSHIP

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership regulations. These rules do protect public access to information from falling into the hands of only a few media monopolies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane".

Diane O'Neil  
PO Box 664  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

May 4, 2003



The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

Subject: BROADCAST OWNERSHIP

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership regulations. These rules do protect public access to information from falling into the hands of only a few media monopolies.

Sincerely,

Diane O'Neil  
PO Box 664  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

**Confirmed**

MAY 16 2003

**Distribution Center**

**Sandra G. Stevenson  
15880 Tonkawood Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55345**

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

May 6, 2003

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAY 13 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

Chairman Michael K. Powell

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you to express my very deep concern about allowing further consolidation of the media.  
**Continued consolation of media will be the death of democracy in America.**

News and entertainment media have already been far to greatly consolidated and the American people are at this time in serious jeopardy of having access to timely, complete news and a broad public dialogue. Even to consider allowing further consolidation is dangerous folly. The reasons are too numerous to recount, but here are just a few:

Control the media, control the message: 1) There is a clear disincentive for journalistic investigation into corporate fraud when the corporation pays the salary of the journalist. As we have discovered recently with the collapse of Enron, corporate fraud is not merely a paper problem – it severely hurts people. 2) Corporations give very large donations to political parties because they expect something in return. This “expectation” provides precious little incentive to investigate when an elected official is using public resources to replace the plumbing in his house, or receives a kickback from a grateful board of directors for supplanting public policy. 3) And finally, why would a media giant allow a story to air that might seriously injure the chances of re-election of a congressional senator who is friendly to the giant’s plans? **We must have a press that is free to report the truth, a press that is not hindered by corporate and political concerns.**

Absentee local media will never meet local needs: 1) Witness Minot North Dakota where a dangerous chemical spill could not be reported to the local population because the multi-national conglomerate which owns six of seven of Minot’s radio stations had fired almost all of the employees in order to consolidate operations. There was literally no one answering the urgent phone calls from public officials to air news about the spill. As a direct result of this corporate monopoly, people were seriously injured, livestock and pets were killed, private property was destroyed. This was not a unique event – circumstances like this will happen again, and again, and again. 2) Let’s take this real-life example a very small step further. When local media outlets are owned and operated by the same entity, who will provide more than one point of view? Surely even the most wildly optimistic can understand how dangerous it is for citizens of a democracy to have access to limited points of view.

Unbiased, unfettered news reporting is essential to the public good and essential to a healthy, meaningful democracy. Impartial and adequate reporting is predicated on serving the public, not the corporate good, and will never occur when large multi-national giants control the message and the budgets. **I call upon the FCC to do it’s job to ensure that the public good is maintained in media by not allowing further consolidation of media resources. Continued consolation of media will be the death of democracy in America.**

Sincerely,



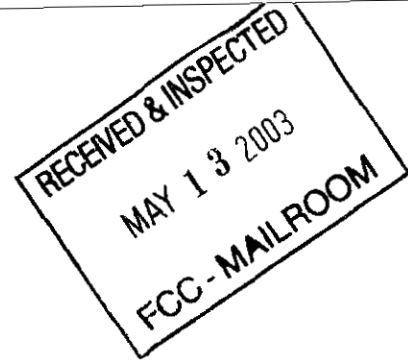
Sandra G. Stevenson

cc Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman, Representative Jim Ramstad, Pioneer Press, Star Tribune

Brian G. Brunsvold  
3510 Wentworth Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22044

(703) 256-1985

May 6, 2003



The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

The broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media concentration should not be altered.

Many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax the ownership rules have a history of refusing to air viewpoints that oppose their corporate viewpoint.

The proposed changes would permit media conglomerates to incrementally increase their control of the content of radio and television news and information in many communities.

I urge you to vote against changing the broadcast ownership protections that have enabled diverse political viewpoints to be presented to the American people.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian G. Brunsvold".

Brian G. Brunsvold

BGB/cah

**Donald J. Gray**  
11 Longbow Road  
Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940

May 5, 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin:  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

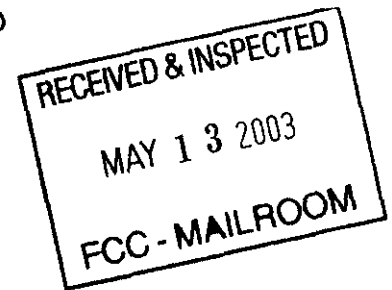
Distribution Center

Dear Commissioner Martin:

It is sad but true that many organizations that form the news media in this country color their selection of the news to report, their reporting of that news, and their acceptance of advertising, by their editorial opinions. This media bias is countered when there is a diversity of media outlets in each market area. That diversity is maintained in part by the present broadcast ownership rules. I urge you not to relax those rules.

Changes in ownership rules that are currently proposed would make it possible for large media organizations to gain major control over broadcasting in many market areas in this country, depriving the American public of the diversity of views on important issues from which they now benefit.

Very truly yours,



**Donald J. Gray**  
11 Longbow Road  
Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940

May 5, 2003

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAY 13 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

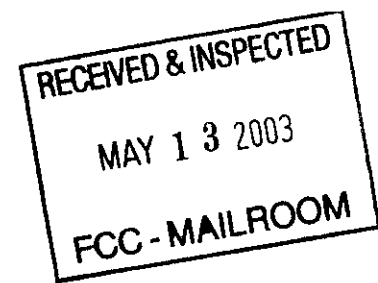
Distribution Center

It is sad but true that many organizations that form the news media in this country color their selection of the news to report, their reporting of that news, and their acceptance of advertising, by their editorial opinions. This media bias is countered when there is a diversity of media outlets in each market area. That diversity is maintained in part by the present broadcast ownership rules. I urge you not to relax those rules.

Changes in ownership rules that are currently proposed would make it possible for large media organizations to gain major control over broadcasting in many market areas in this country, depriving the American public of the diversity of views on important issues from which they now benefit.

Very truly yours,

May 4, 2003



The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Abernathy,

Subject: BROADCAST OWNERSHIP

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership regulations. These rules do protect public access to information from falling into the hands of only a few media monopolies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane", followed by a horizontal line.

Diane O'Neil  
PO Box 664  
Tewksbury, MA 01876



**Donald J. Gray**  
11 Longbow Road  
Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940

May 5, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAY 13 2003

CONFIDENTIAL MAILROOM

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell:

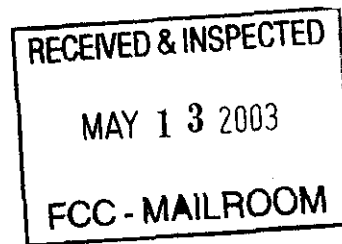
It is sad but true that many organizations that form the news media in this country color their selection of the news to report, their reporting of that news, and their acceptance of advertising, by their editorial opinions. This media bias is countered when there is a diversity of media outlets in each market area. That diversity is maintained in part by the present broadcast ownership rules. I urge you not to relax those rules.

Changes in ownership rules that are currently proposed would make it possible for large media organizations to gain major control over broadcasting in many market areas in this country, depriving the American public of the diversity of views on important issues from which they now benefit.

Very truly yours,



Mr. Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



May 3, 2003

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing to you today to voice my concern regarding your proposed deregulation of the media industry. You claim that your proposal will encourage more competition amongst media services and that more and more independent news services will prosper and grow. Your wish is that the market's guiding forces will provide the framework for the fairness and equal opportunity of these competing agencies. Government intervention will retard the market's own devices for ensuring prosperity amongst businesses and consumers. Deregulation seems to be a fair and honest approach at encouraging competition in one of the United States' most influential and important industries.

On the contrary though, I feel that your proposed deregulation is a misstep on the path to an equal and fair market. I believe deregulation will cut down the independent agencies and reduce competition, further consolidating the powers of a scant few corporations. Right now, the media giant Clear Channel owns 1240 radio stations and boasts that they reach 54% of the adult audience of America. When your deregulation begins, how will the fledgling independent news services compete with this giant, or any of the other major corporations that own our media? Government intervention is necessary in this industry to ensure fair competition.

We need look no further than 1996 and the Telecommunications Act to see how deregulation of our country's communications industry managed to consolidate the power of a few businesses instead of dispersing it to the desired independent companies. Looking even further back reminds us of the lessons of Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller. Their unregulated monopolies exploited workers, the government and most notably, consumers. It was federal regulation and the enforcement of the Sherman Antitrust Act that finally brought their unethical practices to an end. The regulation of their respective industries helped fill a void in the market where free competition and fair practice should have existed.

I hope that you can see the lessons of our past and how they relate to the situation at present. I encourage you to reconsider your decision to deregulate our country's media industry. I don't feel it would be beneficial to our economy, to the media industry itself or to the consumers who rely on the already dangerously conglomerated news services for pertinent information regarding the events of our world. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concern. I look forward to hearing back from you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

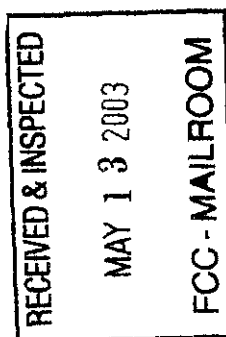
Arthur T. Emery

Arthur Emery  
640 Sudden Valley  
Bellingham, WA 98229

ATE:ae

5 May 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



Virginia Myhaver  
412 Circle Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Commissioner Abernathy:

I urge you most vehemently not to weaken the media-ownership rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers. This will assure that media ownership will become even more concentrated among fewer companies than it already is, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. Plus, it would likely result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs would likely be passed on to consumers.

I am aware that Chairman Powell favors deregulation and holds the opinion that consolidation is simply a healthy trend in business, dictated by market forces. However, the relationship citizens in a democracy have with media does not compare to that which we have with other "products." The mass media shape our thoughts, decisions, and values and indeed, *should* provide the information and news we need to fully participate in our democratic society. An understanding of the profound impact the media have upon our lives and our democracy led to the establishment of the Federal Communications Commission and to its primary mission: to ensure that our airwaves are used by broadcasters in the "public interest." The emergence of cable and satellite conglomerates has proven that more channels do not translate into the diverse voices, enhanced localism, or even variety in programming which are essential to a pluralist culture and the democratic process.

Reports and transcripts of public hearings indicate that the relatively few members of the public who are aware of the proposed changes are overwhelmingly opposed to media consolidation. They are joined by leading religious and civil rights groups, the Consumer's Federation of America, and numerous small, independent media outlets. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition.

Members of Congress and the Senate have expressed concern regarding the lack of opportunity for review of proposed changes. I am aware that the Chairman has cited governmental pressure (which I suspect initially emanates from the powerful communications lobby) as a cause for the acceleration of the decision-making process. Clearly, a directive to slow the process down is now being put forth; doing so could thus be enacted without reproach. While it is within the Commission's legal domain to make changes without consulting others further, I urge you to heed this request and the public's comments. Certainly, the "public interest" is best served by informing the citizenry of the intended changes and by allowing for further public and governmental response to decisions which will likely reconfigure American media, journalism, and democracy dramatically.

Thank You,

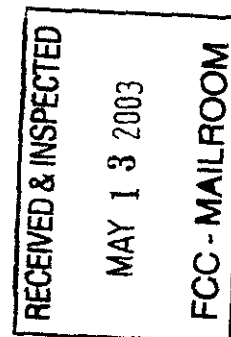
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia Myhaver".

Virginia Myhaver

59 Neuse Hill Road, Arapahoe, North Carolina, 28510

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

May 07, 2003



Dear Sir:

I am dismayed - but not really surprised - that the giant media conglomerates are proposing you change the ownership rules which are designed to protect us, the citizens of these United States, from media monopolies.

It is my understanding that the three major networks are suffering significant declines in the number of listeners and viewers to their "news" broadcasts due, in part, to the Net but also to the lack of pure reporting. People are becoming increasingly disenchanted with the present group of so-called anchors of the news programs because of the lack of good reporting and the preponderance of editorializing and taking material out of context.

The proposed changes would further reduce the gathering of real news by the average citizen since the giant media conglomerates would have almost total control of radio and television news and other information important to our communities. These media giants are already known to slant their 'reporting' and fail to allow opposing views to theirs to be broadcast. Books containing documented details of this type of operation have been published and serve to confirm what we already suspect as to corporate policies.

In these days of world uncertainty and the ongoing threat of terrorist activities inside the United States we, the American people, need to hear more than one point of view on important home and worldwide issues. Freedom of speech carries with it freedom of hearing - something that politically slanted media corporate policies are already limiting, if not destroying. What they are pressuring the FCC to do would virtually produce a State radio/television monopoly.

As an aging citizen, I am very concerned that our school systems are being undermined by the same type of so-called educators that the current media moguls consider themselves to be. To relax the broadcast ownership rules that were designed to protect us from media monopolies would further decrease the possibilities of my grandchildren hearing both sides of any issue and would hasten our downslide into a socialist society and further degradation of our Constitution, whose Amendments are already under constant attack by the media.

The FCC exists to serve *all* Americans and not just giant media organizations which have personal agendas as far as information dissemination is concerned. So far, it has done just that.

Therefore, for the sake of the upcoming generations and our democratic way of life I urge you to continue the present broadcast ownership protections that have helped to guarantee us a healthy political debate system in our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Derrick F. Griffin'.

Derrick F. Griffin

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center